

Message Text

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PAGE 01 USUN N 02909 172249Z

61

ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ADP-00 ARA-16 EA-11 EUR-25 NEA-10 RSC-01

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10

PA-03 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-15 OIC-04 INT-08 RSR-01 /168 W

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P 172206Z AUG 73

FM USMISSION USUN NEWYORK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9092

INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 2909

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UN, RQ

SUBJ: UN COMMITTEE OF 24 ON PUERTO RICO

1. SUMMARY: AMBASSADOR SCALI TELEPHONED COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN SALIM TO EXPRESS SURPRISE AND DISAPPOINTMENT AT POSSIBILITY THE COMMITTEE MIGHT GIVE HEARING TO PUERTO RICO "INDEPENDENTISTAS." SALIM EXPRESSED APPRECIATION OF U.S. CONCERN AND PROMISED COMMITTEE WOULD NOT REACH HASTY DECISION.

2. AMBASSADOR SCALI TELEPHONED COMMITTEE OF 24 CHAIRMAN SALIM THIS MORNING, AUGUST 17. HE SAID HE HAD RECEIVED SALIM'S LETTER OF AUGUST 14, WHICH REFERRED TO THE COMMITTEE'S DESIRE TO VISIT CERTAIN NON-SELF-GOVERNING TERRITORIES. SCALI CONTINUED THAT HE WAS AWARE OF THE COMMITTEE WISH TO SEND A MISSION TO GUAM AND HOPED TO HAVE AN ANSWER FOR AMBASSADOR SALIM SHORTLY.

3. SCALI WENT ON TO SAY THAT HE WAS SURPRISED AND DISAPPOINTED TO LEARN THAT COMMITTEE CONSIDERING GIVING A HEARING TO PUERTO RICAN INDEPENDENCE MOVEMENT LEADERS. HE STATED THAT U.S. AND PUERTO RICAN PUBLIC WOULD CONCLUDE THAT COMMITTEE HAD PREJUDGED ISSUE IF THIS OCCURRED. PUERTO RICAN AND AMERICAN PUBLIC WOULD REACT MOST UNFAVOR-
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PAGE 02 USUN N 02909 172249Z

ABLY IF UN COMMITTEE GAVE PLATFORM TO A POLITICAL MOVEMENT

WHICH HAD ONLY GOTTEN 4 PERCENT OF VOTE IN RECENT PUERTO RICAN ELECTIONS. SCALI SAID FURTHER THAT COMMITTEE DECISION TO HEAR THE PUERTO RICAN INDEPENDENTISTAS WOULD SERIOUSLY HAMPER HIS EFFORTS TO OBTAIN A FAVORABLE DECISION ON VISIT OF COMMITTEE MISSION TO GUAM.

4. SALIM SAID THAT HE APPRECIATED US POSITION, WHICH HE KNEW A NUMBER OF MEMBERS OF HIS COMMITTEE SHARED. SPEAKING AS THE TANZANIAN REPRESENTATIVE, AND ALTHOUGH HIS GOVERNMENT DID NOT SHARE U.S. POSITION ON PUERTO RICO, HE WOULD BE WILLING TO FORGO HEARING PUERTO RICAN INDEPENDENTISTAS. HOWEVER THERE WERE ALSO A NUMBER OF MEMBERS OF HIS COMMITTEE WHO INSISTED THAT COMMITTEE DO SO. HIS PRIMARY CONCERN AS CHAIRMAN WAS TO ARRIVE AT SOME SORT OF CONSENSUS DECISION WHICH WOULD AVOID AN OPEN SPLIT IN THE COMMITTEE. HE STATED THAT THE COMMITTEE WOULD BE DISCUSSING THE QUESTION AGAIN NEXT WEEK, AND PROMISED NOT TO ALLOW IT TO REACH A HASTY DECISION.

5. COMMENT: SALIM IS CONTINUING IN SEARCH OF A COMPROMISE WHICH EVERYONE IN HIS COMMITTEE WILL BUY. HE IS POSSIBLY RIGHT IN SAYING, AS HE DID, THAT IF THE MATTER HAD BEEN PUT TO A VOTE THIS WEEK COMMITTEE WOULD HAVE DECIDED TO HEAR INDEPENDENTISTAS. WE WILL CONTINUE TO WORK WITH THOSE ON THE COMMITTEE SYMPATHETIC WITH OUR POSITION TO SEE THAT NO CONSENSUS IS REACHED AT OUR EXPENSE, AND TO WORK ON OTHER MEMBERS TO INSURE MATTER GOES OUR WAY IF PUT TO VOTE.
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